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inevitable while some roads were permitting or requiring such long hours on duty in train service. Vigorous and united action in eliminating the abuses might have made legislation unnecessary, but no general plan of the kind was tried. The American Railway Association remained inactive.

In fairness to the association, however, it should be said that Mr. Morris' criticism is not as applicable today as it was five years ago. During the past two or three years there has been an awakening to a sense of the responsibilities of the association and the possibilities of widening and quickening its influence. The admirable work of the new committee on "Relations between Railroads" under the able direction of Mr. Arthur Hale, bears witness to the fact that a change has taken place. A more recent committee, on "Relation of Railway Operation to Legislation," is also doing commendable work directly along the lines advocated by Mr. Morris.

The book is not only clearly written but is also comprehensive in its treatment and unusually interesting. It admirably answers its avowed purpose of affording to the non-technical reader the managers' viewpoint toward the problems of actual railroad administration in this country, with a glance at comparative conditions in other countries. Its value, however, is not confined to the non-technical reader. Railroad officers of all departments will find it both entertaining and profitable to look at their familiar problems through Mr. Morris' spectacles.

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Histoire du commerce de la France. Par E. LEVASSEUR. Première partie: Avant 1789. Paris: Arthur Rousseau, éditeur, 1911. 8vo, pp. xxxiii+611.

It is little to the credit of the French Republic that there is but one chair of economic history in its whole educational system, and that in the Collège de France. Not a single French university possesses such a chair. But it is much to the honor of French scholarship that the incumbent of that position is so distinguished a scholar as the venerable *doyen* of the ancient institution founded by Francis I. Eight years ago when the writer listened to his lectures M. Levasseur was a thin, frail, elderly gentleman in whom the light of learning still burned bright and whose deep scholarship yet seemed unimpaired by physical decline. Today he is 83 years of age and yet has been able to put forth another monumental tome. Such a combination of scholarship, industry, and physical vigor is rare since those great days of erudition in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

There is a certain melancholy grandeur attached to this stately volume. M. Levasseur believes that it is his valedictory: "Je croyais que ce volume serait mon dernier ouvrage," he writes. Looking along the shelves of other men's books he says he found that there was no *complete* history of French commerce, both internal and external, from earliest times to the present. Pigeonneau's death interrupted his work on the threshold of Colbert's policy.

The present volume is but half of the subject. A subsequent one will cover the commercial history of France since the Revolution. In manner and method of exposition the work is similar to the *Histoire des classes ouvrières et de*

l'industrie en France avant et après 1789. But there has been an even greater excision of text citations and references in this volume. The thorough scholar will regret this economy of space. The scope of the author is larger than the strict interpretation of the title would imply, for the subject has been treated on such large lines that much that is only indirectly germane to a history of commerce is included, as for example, social structure. Means of commercial communication and transportation, routes, navigable waters, ports, coast trade, the mechanism of exchange, money and its variations, production of the precious metals and their influence on prices, interest, credit, colonization, commercial companies, privileges, *douanes*, economic theory, commercial treaties, articles of importation and exportation—all these subjects have been discussed.

And yet despite the wealth of information here embodied, one rises from a reading of the volume with mingled feelings of admiration and regret. It is sadly evident that M. Levasseur—surely he may be pardoned—is not abreast of the scholarship of the day. The book is evidently the product of researches made fifteen or more years ago, with little addition since. There are stretches in the river of his thought that are “slack water”—where the current is not a running stream freshened by new affluents. For example, in the portion dealing with the Middle Ages there is nothing said of the great economic part played by the monasteries, though much might have been found in Genestal, *Le rôle des monastères comme établissement de crédit*; in Imbart de la Tour, *Des immunités commerciales accordées aux églises*; in Lamprecht (French translation), *Etudes sur l'état économique de la France*; and Delisle, *Histoire de la condition de la classe agricole . . . en Normandie*. The history of commerce in the Carolingian period is most meagerly treated. M. Gaffarel's Sorbonne thesis, *De Francio commercio regnantibus Karolinis*, and the Abbé Loisel's *Essai sur la législation économique de Carolingiens* seem to be unknown to the author. M. Levasseur adds little to what has long been known about the *métiers* and the corporations, although M. St. Leon's *La compagnonnage* and M. Henri Hauser's *Ouvriers du temps passé* have added much. The whole Valois period suffers from—not superficial—but antiquated treatment. One who did not know the facts would find it hard to discover that the wool trade of Flanders, the wine trade of Guyenne, the linen trade of Brittany, and the fisheries of the North and Irish seas were the fundamental causes of the Hundred Years' War. Yet no one can read M. Funck-Brentano's *Philippe le Bel en Flandre*, Simon's *History of the Wine Trade in England*, or the *Patent*, and *Close Rolls* of Edward III, not to mention Cunningham, without finding such information on every page.

The detrimental influence of the rapacity of the crown under Philip IV and Philip VI upon the *halles* of Paris is not shown at all (see Piollet, “Les anciens halles de Paris,” *Mém. de la Soc. de l'Île-de-France*, Vol. III). The fairs of Champagne, based on Bourquelot, are the only fairs treated with reasonable fulness; the others are merely alluded to or get no mention at all. Huvelin's admirable work: *Essai historique sur les foires et des marchés* and Roussel's “La foire du Lendit,” *Bull. de la soc. d'histoire de Paris*, are not mentioned in the bibliography. M. Piton's two works: *Les Lombards dans les deux Bourgognes* and *Les Lombards en France et à Paris* are uncited if used, of which there is no evidence, and the same scanty measure is meted out to the

Jews. Unless M. Levasseur assumes that Avignon was not a part of France in the Middle Ages there is no excuse for the grave omission to give an account of the enlightened policy of the popes toward the Jews (cf. Bardinet: *Les juifs d'Avignon*; Saige: *Les juifs du Languedoc*).

The paragraph describing the destruction of commerce and industry during the Hundred Years' War tells what everybody knows. But some account ought to have been given of the regent Bedford's intelligent efforts to revive commerce in Normandy and the Ile-de-France. Few documents in the *Ordonnances* are more instructive than those bearing the name of Henry VI and prompted by Bedford (see Stevenson, *Wars of the English in France*, Vol. I, Introduction; Puiseaux, *L'émigration anglaise en Normandie pendant le XV^e siècle*). Jacques Cœur gets one scant page, though he is still permitted to wear the halo of legend, in spite of Guiraud's *Recherches et conclusions nouvelles sur le prétendu rôle de Jacques Cœur*. As to Louis XI, one wonders whether M. Hauser's *Louis XI et les communautés de métiers* and M. See's *Louis XI et les villes* have been consulted.

The economic history of modern France is, of course, much more fully treated; but again there are incomprehensible defects. If there is one supremely important book which has appeared in recent times upon French economic history, it is Eberstadt's *Das französische Gewerberecht und die Schaffung stattlicher Gesetzgebung im Frankreich von den xiii-ten Jahrhundert bis 1581*. This work has enlarged the horizon of the economic historian—and what historian is not such in part today?—as the discovery of Neptune widened the horizon of the watcher of the skies. It is the point of departure for the rewriting of the whole Huguenot movement in the sixteenth century. Yet the fact that the Huguenot disaffection was powerfully influenced by gild monopoly, by the abuses of apprenticeship, etc., and that France's policy toward Spain was influenced by commercial considerations—the wine and cloth trade in the Spanish Netherlands—is the dark side of the moon to M. Levasseur (see my *Wars of Religion in France: The Huguenots, Catherine de Medici, and Philip II*). The same backwardness of treatment characterizes the account of the Huguenots under Louis XIV. The author repeats the partially exploded belief that the expulsion of the Huguenots was an unmixed economic calamity and fails to see the powerful economic interest that forced the revocation of the Edict of Nantes (see my article in *The American Historical Review*, July, 1906: "Some Economic Factors in the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes").

Classic economic themes like the work of Henry IV and Colbert are naturally well discussed, but the perplexing subject of the *douanes* (cf. Collery, "Les douanes avant Colbert," *Revue Historique*, January, 1882), and the peculiar conditions of commerce in Alsace and Lorraine under Louis XIV are inadequately treated. Much the best portions of the whole work are books vi–vii, dealing with the commercial companies, colonization, John Law, and the political theorists of the eighteenth century.

To sum up: M. Levasseur's *Histoire du commerce de la France* is a sumptuous manual, but it is far from being an adequate history, as it professes to be, of the subject. In scholarship it is behind the times. The bibliography is sadly defective—I have noted the omission of nearly sixty important works or articles; not a single German work has been used, not even Beer, and Cunningham and

MacCulloch are the only English works. The index is insufficient. Where the work excels is in features characteristically French—proportion and clarity of style.

JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON

Sociology and Modern Social Problems. By CHARLES A. ELLWOOD. New York: American Book Co., 1910. 8vo, pp. 331.

Professor Ellwood begins his treatment by making clear the fact that the social includes the moral, political, religious, and economic, and is not in opposition to them. Political, industrial, and educational problems are phases of social life, and to understand these phases we must understand the biological and psychological aspects of man's social life.

Society, he sets forth, springs from the necessities of life itself. Sociology is defined as the science of the evolution of human interrelations, the vital part of which is the study of *social changes*.

While the author asserts that Darwin's theory in its essentials stands today, he restates it only for the evolutionary point of view which this theory gives. In addition to the more essential points in organic evolution, evolution in the universal sense, as indicated in the works of Herbert Spencer, is also assumed. Social evolution is the evolution of groups of psychically interconnected individuals. It is the higher forms of evolution—association, co-operation, combination—with which sociology is primarily concerned.

Social evolution has as its basis organic evolution. Certain limitations are also set to it by natural laws, so that society does not so much what *it wants to do*, as what it *must do* in order to survive. The author's conclusion then is that human social evolution rests upon and is conditioned by biological evolution, and that there is no sanity in sociology without the biological point of view.

In his order of treatment, which seems to add much merit to the book, the family is next taken up along with private property, which are held as the bases upon which civilization rests. While the individual is often taken as the unit of sociological investigation just as the atom in chemistry, still the family is the simplest *social* structure (p. 53). The biological aspects of the family—sex, reproduction, variation through heredity—are treated in turn. Presenting in brief the arguments on both sides, but basing his contention mainly on Westermarck, the author argues for the monogamous family as the original form. Family life is held to have been based on parental instinct originally, and is still so at present, instead of sex.

One of the most interesting features of the book appears strikingly for the first time in the treatment of the evolution of the family in Roman life, in which it is set forth that no one isolated cause can account for changes, but that numerous stimuli have to be taken into account.

Modern tendencies toward the disruption of the family receive attention in keeping with the important place of the family in the entire treatment. The increasing tendencies to disintegration are to be explained by the new adjustments of modern society, in the face of which the virtues of self-sacrifice, loyalty, and obedience have suffered, and thus family ties have weakened. We have not yet developed a family in keeping with our democratic society, and the implication is